

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A method and system for dynamically altering the transmission settings of one
or more computing devices engaged in a real-time communication session is
presented. The devices exchange meaningful and dummy control packets according
to a standard control protocol. The approximate bandwidth available on the network
is then calculated based on the difference in arrival times between at least one of the
dummy control packets and at least one of the meaningful control packets. Once the
10 approximate bandwidth available on the network is computed, the one or more
devices adjust outgoing audio and video data streams using a quality control
mechanism. The quality control mechanism enables the one or more devices to
transmit data in a way that maximizes the user experience during the real-time
communication session.

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